COMM 5013-104: Introduction to Graduate Study

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to graduate study in communication at the University of Oklahoma. It is designed to introduce incoming graduate students to the nature of advanced professional study. The focus of the course will be on the major social science theories and theoretical perspectives of the communication discipline. In addition, the course will introduce students to current trends in communication theory and research, as well as many of the major theoretical and research issues facing communication researchers today. This course concerns the essence of scholarship, including reading and writing for science research, and the nature and role of theory in the process of academic research.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: October 18 – 20 & 25 – 27, 2019
- Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
- Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 19, 2019

Site Director:
Email: apokc@ou.edu, Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: Dr. Ioana A. Cionea
- Mailing Address: 130 Burton Hall
  Department of Communication
  University of Oklahoma
  610 Elm Avenue
  Norman, OK 73019-3141
- Telephone Number: 405-325-3018
- Fax Number: 405-325-7625
- E-mail Address: icionea@ou.edu
- Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online.

2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas system: Journal articles will be uploaded to Canvas prior to class. Access Canvas at [https://canavs.ou.edu](https://canavs.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

**Course Outline:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td>Littlejohn &amp; Foss Ch. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orientation to academic scholarship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communication theory and scholarship</td>
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<td>10/19</td>
<td>Theory and traditions in communication theory</td>
<td>Littlejohn &amp; Foss Ch. 2-5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theories focused on the communicator and the message</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Theories focused on the conversation</td>
<td>Littlejohn &amp; Foss Ch. 6</td>
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<td>10/25</td>
<td>Theories focused on the relationship</td>
<td>Littlejohn &amp; Foss Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Theories focused on the group and the organization</td>
<td>Littlejohn &amp; Foss Ch. 8-11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theories focused on media, culture, and society</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

To be adequately prepared for this course, please read the textbook prior to the beginning of classes. Take notes and especially make note of concepts or issues that pose you difficulty. Bring these up as we cover the respective theories in class.

**In-class performance (25% of course grade)**

You are expected to attend all classes and come to class prepared with pertinent comments. You should also make significant and substantive contributions to class discussions, and offer constructive feedback on others’ work when applicable.

Each person is responsible for identifying one practical application, comment, or critique for each theory we discuss. You should post it in the appropriate thread on Canvas>Discussion board the day before a theory is to be discussed. Please do not repeat other students’ posts.

**Theory presentation (15% of course grade)**

Throughout the course, you will be responsible for leading discussion on one of the theories we cover. You can sign up for the theory by emailing me; theories are assigned on a first come first served basis and the available theories are updated on Canvas in the announcements page.

On the day that theory is covered, it is expected that you will have a 2-3-page handout for the rest of the class that explains the theory, its background, its domain of application, assumptions, strengths and weaknesses, as well as theoretical and practical implications of the theory for communication research. Please upload a copy of your handout to Canvas under this assignment the day before your presentation.

**Analysis paper (30% of course grade)**

The course paper for this class asks that you choose two communication theories from the same domain (e.g., interpersonal theories, organizational theories, etc.) and write a comparative critique of the theories. You should identify the type of research these theories have generated in the communication discipline in the past five years (2010-2015). Briefly describe/summarize the studies each theory has generated, explain the main results of these studies, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of each theory according to the criteria discussed throughout the course.
The paper should be between 10 and 12 pages (excluding cover page and references) and follow APA 6th edition in respect to formatting, writing, and citations.

The paper should be submitted electronically to Canvas within three weeks after the last day of classes. Late assignments may not be accepted – you should always check with your instructor if you believe you will have difficulty meeting the deadline. The instructor will return feedback electronically via Canvas.

Papers will be graded based on their content, structure, and writing. Further details about how to write a good paper as well as a detailed evaluation form for the paper will be discussed in class.

**Final examination (30% of course grade)**

The final examination will take place during the last class session. It will test your understanding of communication concepts and the theories studied, as well as the reading material assigned for the class.

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A(90%-100%), B(80%-89%), C(70%-79%), D(60%-69%), or F(<60%).

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>All class sessions</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory presentation</td>
<td>On your chosen date</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>October 27th 2019</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course paper</td>
<td>November 17th 2019</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid. Note, however, that the grade of I is not automatic and that both student and instructor need to agree to it and sign an incomplete contract.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html

Course Policies
Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Ioana A. Cionea

Education

• 2013: Ph.D. in Communication, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
• 2006: M. A. in Communication Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
• 2004: LL. B., Dimitrie Cantemir University College of Law, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Current Position

Associate professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

• Argumentation
• Intercultural communication
• Interpersonal communication
• Quantitative research methods

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

• University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences, Irene Rothbaum Award for Outstanding Assistant Professor, 2016
• University of Oklahoma, Office of the Vice President for Research, Junior Faculty Fellowship, 2014
• University of Oklahoma, Department of Communication, Faculty/Staff Service and Support Award, 2014, 2017, 2019

Major Professional Affiliations